

**Obituaries**

**Lila C. Erickson**



Sept. 3, 1936-Apr. 16, 2024

Lila C. Erickson, age 87, a homemaker and resident of Terra Bella, California, passed away on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

A celebration of life for family and friends will be held at her home on Saturday, May 25, 2024, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

A second celebration of life will be held at the Free Church Cemetery in Wilton, North Dakota on Saturday, June 22, 2024, at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at the Free Church in Wilton, North Dakota.

Lila is survived by her husband, John Erickson of 67 years; her daughter, Marie Erickson, Porterville, CA; daughter-in-law, Janell Erickson, Shepherd, MT and their four grandchildren, Erin, Evan, Erika and Ellery; her grandson, Brandon Erickson; her brother, Merrill (Connie) Piepkorn, Fargo, ND; her sister, Lenora (Bill) Weinerth, Ventura, CA; sister, Janet Hayes, Riverton, WY; and sister-in-law, Evonne Piepkorn of Stanley, ND.

She is preceded in death by her brothers, Don Piepkorn, Clarence Piepkorn, and LeRoy Piepkorn. She grieved the loss of her two sons, Elwood Erickson and Marshall Erickson.

Memories by and of Lila Corrine Erickson,

I was born in the farm house five or so miles South West of Stanley, North Dakota on September 3, 1936. I was the fourth child born to Herman and Olga Hoas Piepkorn and the first daughter followed by two little sisters and a brother which completed our family of seven. (Don, Clarence, LeRoy, Lila, Janet, Lenora and Merrill)

Growing up in rural North Dakota was a happy and busy time. Mom and dad kept us involved in church, 4-H, school activities, YCL, and for me, piano lessons for seven years. My piano teacher, Sibly McDonald, had me sing sometimes. Janet and Lenora just reminded me that I won a talent contest in Stanley once by singing Detour there's a muddy road ahead at the outside band stand in downtown Stanley.

When in high school I played piano for the first church service every Sunday morning and sang in the choir at the second service. At five o'clock every other week we had Luther League and went to the movies afterwards.

In the winter we would take our sleds and slide down this one steep hill in Stanley. After school many evenings I would play on the monkey bars. I loved swinging, hanging, and twisting on them. I graduated from Stanley High School in 1954.

I like working outside with the planting of trees and flowers, feeling the warm California sunshine, making awesome friends in church and this community. We enjoy spending winters in California. Being with Marie, and Brandon, Dana, Troy and Logan, not too far from Lenora and Janet, being able to stop in Bill-

**Card of Thanks**

The family of Marvin Johnson wishes to express their appreciation to those who have offered such kindness, support and messages of sympathy and comfort in our bereavement. We especially wish to thank the Stanley Ambulance and Mountrail County Medical Center staff for their compassion and care while Marvin was a patient in the hospital. Thank you to Springan Stevenson Funeral Home for the awesome job you did for our family, for meeting with us to do the planning of the services, for your creative execution of the memorial flier and the video, which was a wonderful tribute we will cherish. Thank you for taking care of all the arrangements for the family service, funeral service and for the burial. Thank you to Milo Mell for coming to see Marvin at the hospital, for meeting with us to plan the services and for being available for the family service, and funeral service. You are greatly appreciated. Thank you to those for the visits and support during Marvin's hospital stay and to all who stopped by and/or brought food to the house. Thank you to the friends and neighbors who served the meal after the family service and who also served the lunch after the funeral. Marvin's family is very grateful for all the thoughts and prayers for a life well lived. God Bless you all.

Geraine Johnson  
Wayne and Carol Johnson family  
Lori Johnson family  
Reene Grinolds family  
Dana and John Daily family

ings at Elwood and Janell's, keeping in touch with Erika, Ellery, Evan and Erin and family.

John and I owned a grade A dairy, put up many bales of hay each summer and managed a beef herd and grain farm. John took flying lessons and we owned two air planes. We took many trips around the USA with them. John handed over the controls to me once on our way to New Orleans. All you have to do is keep up your altitude and speed, right? He took a nap with one eye open. I liked to bike too, so I did a 150 mile bike trip to Stanley from Wilton one September to visit Dad in the Stanley nursing home. John flew up, we put the bike in the plane, so I had an easy ride home. I have had a good life and just wanted my descendants to know a little about Grandma Lila. I wish that I knew more about my grandparents.

For me to live is Christ and to die is gain: Phil 1:22

Another verse I like is, Let this mind be in you which is in Christ Jesus. Phil 2:5

**Verona Good Bear**

Verona Good Bear, 73, New Town, died Saturday, May 11, 2024, at a Stanley hospital.

(Langhans Funeral Home, Parshall)

**Daniel Gonzales-Torres**

Daniel Gonzales-Torres, 60, Parshall, died Sunday, May 12, 2024, at his home.

(Langhans Funeral Home, Parshall)

**Roger Moberg**

Roger Moberg, 76, Battleview, died Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at his home.

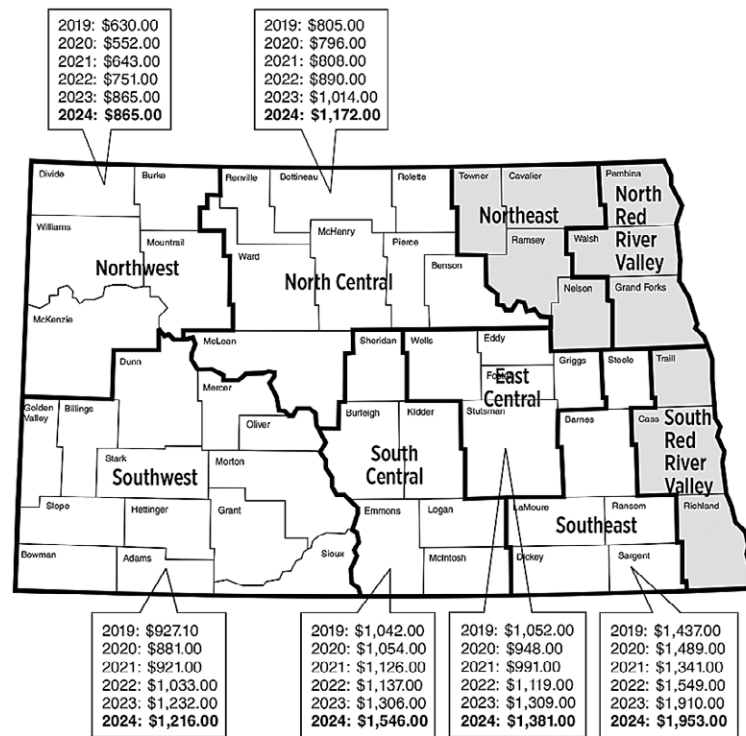
(Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Tioga)

**AARP Fraud Alert: AARP Fraud Watch Network Survey Results**

Theft through fraud has risen exponentially over the last five years. A recent report from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) found that reported fraud losses topped \$10 billion in 2023, up from \$2.4 billion in 2019. A recent survey from the AARP Fraud Watch Network showed that this growth is not going unnoticed with 58 percent of people worried about fraud.

The survey also showed many people have lost money or personal data due to scams and fraud. Overall, 42 percent of people reported losing money, but among African Americans (56 percent) and veterans (50 percent) significantly more people lost money. Unfortunately, less than half (46 percent) of those

**ND Pastureland Values And Rental Rates Continue Upward Trend**



Estimated average per acre values of pasture in North Dakota from 2019 to 2024.

2024 marks the fourth year in a row that pastureland values in North Dakota have increased, says Bryon Parman, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension agricultural finance specialist.

From 2023 to 2024, statewide average pastureland values increased 6.63 percent from \$1,273 per acre to \$1,355 per acre. This marks the fourth consecutive year that pastureland values have increased since 2021 averaging an annual increase of 6.9 percent per year during that

span. Pastureland cash rental rates edged up in 2024 as well increasing just over 4 percent to a statewide average of just over \$23 per acre. This is according to the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands Annual Land Survey data which has been weighted for this article by county acreage count and put into NDSU Extension regions. The original survey data can be found at: <https://www.land.nd.gov/resources/north-dakota-county-rents-prices-annual-survey>. The NDSU regions do not include values for the southern Red River Valley, northern Red River Valley, or the Northeast regions due to very low number of reported pastureland rental rates or sales values. Also, single year variation may not reflect actual conditions. It is more useful to look at trends or multi-year movements.

Much like cropland prices in North Dakota, pastureland values have grown significantly faster than cash rental rates for pastureland. From 2014 through 2024, statewide pastureland prices increased at an annual rate of approximately 5 percent. However, during that same time pastureland interest rates increased at around 2.2 percent per year or less than half that of pastureland values.

"As of 2024, the rent-to-value rate for pastureland, where the cash rental rate is divided by the land value to estimate a rate of return, was down to 1.7 percent," says Parman.

"That is essentially saying that, before accounting for management fees or property taxes, the return to pastureland in North Dakota is 1.7 percent. When those factors are also considered, the return is significantly lower. To put that into historical perspective, as of 1990, the rent-to-value for pastureland was approximately 7 percent showing that over the last 35 years, pastureland values have greatly outpaced rental rates."

Parman adds, "Like cropland prices responding to crop commodity prices, pastureland prices and rental rates do respond to cattle prices as well. However, there are nuances and variables that impact pastureland prices differently. For one thing, with crops, a multi-year drought can be overcome more quickly than pasture, as it can take years of additional rainfall to repair damaged rangeland, especially if it was overgrazed during the drought period. Also, following years of drought, cattle may be sold off

such that when pastureland has recovered, there are fewer beef cattle inventories and therefore less grazing land needed in the short run. Pastureland can also be highly regionalized such that in areas that are more cattle, those areas command relatively higher rents than areas with fewer cattle, even if areas with fewer cattle would be more productive. Pastureland is also tied to cropland prices in that, even if livestock prices aren't all that favorable, rising cropland prices can pull pastureland prices up with them."

"Moving forward, with this spring looking favorable for forage production on range land in North Dakota, and strong beef cattle prices, it is reasonable to expect pastureland values to continue the trend of increasing in value into next year," Parman says. "Additionally, if strong beef cattle prices continue and inventories increase from their historical low to start 2024, pastureland rental rate increases could pickup over the next few years."

**AARP ND Opposes Latest MDU Gas Rate Increase Proposal**

AARP strongly opposes Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) proposal to increase residential natural gas rates by \$35.3 million in 2024. The rate increase request made to the North Dakota Public Service Commission would mean that residential customers will see a 9.84 percent increase in their monthly bill.

Utility rate increases are an escalating concern for North Dakotans, many of whom struggle to pay their utility bills, along with other critical household expenses. AARP North Dakota opposes this proposed rate increase on behalf of its 83,000 members and North Dakota residents, aged 50-plus.

"At a time when so many older North Dakotans are already struggling with the rising costs of groceries, medicine and healthcare, most can't afford a utility rate increase, and it's especially concerning to see how this filing puts an additional cost burden on MDU residential customers," says Josh Askvig, AARP ND State Director. "We're fighting to keep utility costs affordable."

In its rate increase filing for natural gas customers in North Dakota, MDU proposes to increase resi-

dential rates 9.84 percent while the overall average increase is just 7.4 percent. In addition, MDU is proposing another increase to the basic service charge (the fixed charge residential customers pay before turning on the gas) despite already having one of the highest fixed charges in the area. MDU also proposes the addition of a residential distribution delivery charge.

"Even small increases can be detrimental to low users and people on fixed incomes, which includes many of our AARP members. AARP has a long history of opposing such increases in North Dakota and will continue to ensure rates remain affordable. We urge the North Dakota Public Service Commission to reject the increase," said Askvig.

When MDU requested a 17 percent residential electric rate hike in 2022, AARP ND fought the filing and brought the rate hike down significantly - saving consumers money and ensuring their voices were heard.

AARP encourages North Dakotans in the MDU service area to learn more about the proposed rate increase at [www.aarp.org/nd](http://www.aarp.org/nd).

**A Proven Advocate for Northwestern North Dakota  
Your District 2 Primary vote is important**



**HARMS for Senate**

*There is nothing more American than exercising your right to vote."*

**Robert Harms**

Republican voters have the opportunity to choose who they would like to see represent them in the North Dakota legislature. Robert Harms, a lifelong resident is running for the Senate in District 2 and would appreciate your vote.



Election Information



Harms for Senate

[www.harmsforsenate.net](http://www.harmsforsenate.net)

Paid for by Robert Harms

**Stanley Park District**

**GOLF 4 PERSON TOURNAMENT MEN & WOMEN FRIDAY**

**June STANLEY GOLF 14th CLUB**

Check in Starts 7:30am  
Pre Registration is a MUST

June 14th - 2 SHOTGUN STARTS 8:30AM  
@STANLEY --2 FLIGHTS-- 2:00pm  
SUPPER/SOCIAL 7PM

Prizes/Awards - Following Championship Round

ONE PLAYER	PER TEAM OF 4	Cart Rental
\$150	\$500	\$40

MUST BE OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL TO PARTICIPATE

**HOLE IN ONE PRIZES**

PRE-REGISTER for CART and TEAM

Hotel Information:  
MAIN STAY  
604 Westview Lane  
701-732-1828  
(701) 629-8990 WWW.stanleyparkdistrict.com

**Stanley Park District**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT FRIDAY JUNE 14th**

Check in Starts at 730am  
830am/2pm Shotgun starts  
Prairie Rose Golf Club-Stanley  
-7pm Supper/social/awards  
or after last team comes in

PRE-REGISTER: is a MUST  
DEADLINE TO ENTER  
June 3rd  
Limited Team Availability

Player #1	Player #3
NAME: _____	NAME: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Average score 1-18 round _____	Average score 1-18 round _____
Player #2	Player #4
NAME: _____	NAME: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Average score 1-18 round _____	Average score 1-18 round _____

**Payment Information**

Individual Golf: \$150 x \_\_\_\_\_ (does not include cart)  Women's Team  Mens Team  Mix Team-

Team of four: (M) \$500 x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of Teams) (does not include cart) (W) \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ (\$40/cart)  will get put in mens tour

Corporate/tee Sponsor: \$800 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

Tee Sponsor: \$350 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

Other Sponsorship: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ cart (s) for me

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*EMAIL FORM TO stanleyparkdistrict@gmail.com OR mail to below address

\* For check payments, please make the check out to Stanley Park District and write 'Golf Tour' - players names in the memo and send to Stanley Park District DOX 901 STANLEY ND 58784

\* For card payments, please complete the following information:

Card Type:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  Discover

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_